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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Information on KVP Units at Eggesin

EVALUATION

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE PREPARED 29 January 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. On 26 and 27 November 1953, four JS and 2 T-34 tanks respectively were unloaded at Eggesin. The tanks then moved to Installation VIII. [] the T-34 tanks had been dispatched from Neubrandenburg. On 30 November, seven T-34 tanks were entrained at Eggesin. [] these tanks were to be repaired at Neubrandenburg. []

2. [] 55 recruits had arrived on 29 November. The recruits were assigned to one company.²

3. [] a new training year was started on 1 December. Great stress was to be laid on military discipline and intensified training. This trend was reflected in the establishment of special itinerant military courts. On 25 November 1953, such a court, which had assembled at Installation VIII and was headed by a colonel from Berlin, sentenced several KVP soldiers to long terms at hard labor; and a death sentence was pronounced against a deserter. About 20 November 1953, three soldiers of an engineer unit stationed at the installation were killed by negligent handling of antitank close-combat munitions. The officer in charge was sentenced to one year at hard labor.

4. By late November 1953, plaster work at barracks installations in the Eggesin area was nearing completion. However, only some of the buildings were occupied, among others by signal unit. No tent camps were observed. [] the barracks installations would not be serviceable before March 1954, although their completion date was 26 December 1953. The drainage facilities had not yet been completed; the same applies to the motor vehicle garages.

5. [] four railroad carloads of new uniforms arrived at the Eggesin and Spechtberg main clothing depots of the division.

6. Prior to late November 1953, a total of 280 model Molotov sidecar motorcycles arrived in Eggesin for distribution among the units of the division.³ On 3 and 4 December, a total of 20 T-34 tanks were unloaded at Eggesin and then shipped out toward Karpin. The tanks had apparently undergone repair.¹

7. About 10 December, 64 new Soviet instructors arrived at the division headquarters in Eggesin. The same number of Soviet instructors had previously been transferred.⁴ Shortly before Christmas, about 40 percent of the soldiers stationed in

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the Eggesin area were sent on leave.

8. Between 2 and 13 December, the former Eggesin ammunition depot, which prior to 1949 had housed a police school, quartered 350 to 400 KVPs. Blue, yellow, red, black-bordered blue and green collar patches were observed with these soldiers. Sedans [] were continuously parked in front of a building which housed a high-echelon headquarters. Eight new houses with four flats each were scheduled to be completed on the site of the camp by 1 January 1954. Driving school with trucks was daily conducted. []

[] Between 9 and 11 December, two detachments of 1 officer and 15 EM each who wore black-collar patches were daily seen being trained in close combat.⁵

9. [] Section A of Installation VIII at Eggesin quartered an artillery regiment which had previously been located at Altwarp. Major Auerbach was chief of staff and Captain Salchow was supply officer of regiment. Four 122-mm howitzers were observed in the billeting area of the regiment. Section B of the installation quartered the artillery regiment, the commanding officer of which was Colonel Durweiler. The latter regiment consisted of three battalions and one motorcycle company. The regiment was not up to its full strength. Many 72-mm, 122-mm and 152-mm guns were observed on the parking lot of Section B. Section C of the installation still quartered the regiment from Schwerin.²

10. Between 10 and 15 December, the former Saxon regiment which was quartered in Section D of Installation VIII numbered about 150 officers and 1,200 men. The former Rostock regiment, which was stationed in Section I, was commanded by Captain Jannsen whose chief of staff was Captain Schulz. No training activities were observed. Reports of firing carbines were heard from the firing range.²

11. About 40 T-34 tanks, 25 armored scout cars and 25 trucks were [] on the parking lot of Section C. All these vehicles had their fuel tanks filled, and they were ready for immediate employment. Each unit was equipped with only two supply vehicles.²

12. Between 16 November and 18 December, there was no change in the status of the troop camp on the southern perimeter of Eggesin and the barracks installations in the forest. The troop camp quartered an estimated 1,200 to 1,500 men most of whom with yellow-bordered black epaulets, while the barracks installations in the forest were occupied to 6,000 to 7,000 men who wore red-bordered black, black-bordered blue and black-bordered red epaulets. The troop camp, allegedly, quartered also about 30 Soviet officers. At least 50 to 60 officers' families moved to the officers' settlement during the reported period. On 17 November, work was started on the erection of a 2-meter brick wall around the barracks installation.⁵

13. The afternoon of 16 November, 60 VP-sea officers arrived by bus [] at the troop camp from the direction of Torgelow. On 16 December, about 80 high-ranking KVP officers had a long conference at the troop camp. The officers involved arrived in about 30 sedans.

14. Between 23 November and 12 December, the following observations were made in the vicinity of the barracks installations:

23 November. At 10 a.m., eight men practiced the felling of trees by demolition charges. At 11 a.m., about 50 men were making a cross-country run.

25 November. At 2 p.m., there was lively carbine firing in the wooden area. From 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m., 10 T-34/85 tanks made practice runs in the Neumuhl area.

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8 December. From 10 a.m. to noon, about 100 men were being given field training on the meadows west of forest district No 258.

10 December. At 3 p.m. 10 T-34/85 tanks practiced near Teerofen. About 30 men were practicing the throwing of training grenades.

12 December. At 10 a.m., about 120 men were engaged in close order drill on the meadows west of forest district No 258.

During the entire period of observation, artillery fire was daily heard from the Hoelkebaum area.

15. On 5 December, about 700 motor vehicles were observed parked in the open in forest districts Nos 203 and 204. Prior to 18 December, 12 semi-underground ammunition bunkers were built near these parking sites.
16. On 30 November, about 15 T-34/85 tanks were towed by tanks of the same type to the Eggesin railroad station where they were loaded on flatcars.¹

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1. Comment. The tank repair shop at Neubrandenburg which was opened in the summer of 1953 mainly serves the component units of Armeegruppe Nord. It was repeatedly observed that tanks previously used by the Soviet occupation forces were repaired at Neubrandenburg and then assigned to KVP units.

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2. Comment. The data on the occupation of Installation VIII at Karpin agrees with previous information. The installation quarters three mechanized regiments, the engineer battalion which had previously been located at Fuenfeichen, the mortar regiment, previously stationed at Altwarp, and the howitzer artillery regiment. The 122-mm and 152-mm guns presumably belonged to the howitzer artillery regiment. This would be a deviation from the Soviet pattern, because howitzer artillery regiments of a Soviet mechanized division are only equipped with 122-mm howitzers. The 72 mm guns mentioned probably were 76.2-mm field guns of the artillery battalions of the mechanized regiments. Previous information indicated that military jurisdiction was introduced for the KVP.

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3. Comment. These motorcycles were delivered by the USSR between mid-September and mid-November 1953. The distribution point for this material is at Oranienburg.

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4. Comment. a large portion of the Soviet instructors was withdrawn from KVP units after July 1953.

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5. Comment. This troop camp quarters the division headquarters, the signal battalion, and service units of the division Eggesin.

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